

BLACK SPOT OF BANANA  
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Black spot of banana, caused by the fungus *Deightonella torulosa* (Sydow) Ellis (*Helminthosporium torulosum* (Sydow) Ashby), is a leaf spotting disease occurring in many banana-growing areas of the world (1,2,3,4,5,6,7). In Florida (7), the fungus attacks dwarf banana, *Musa acuminata* Colla 'Dwarf Cavendish' (*Musa nana* auct. non Lour.) (*M. cavendishii* Lamb.), plantain or cooking banana and common banana, *M. x paradisiaca* L, (*M. x sapientum* (L.) Kuntze), and travelers tree, *Ravenala madagascariensis* Sonn.

**SYMPTOMS.** The first symptoms appear as small black spots about the size of a pinhead in the proximity of the leaf margin usually between the veins of the lowermost leaves (fig. 1A). As the disease progresses, the spots increase in size, up to 4 cm in diameter, and become lenticular in the direction of the veins. The spots are delimited by a well-defined black border surrounded by a bright-yellow band. In severe cases, the spots unite and form broad bands of necrotic tissue which run the length of the leaf blade (1) (fig. 1B). *D. torulosa* also causes a fruit disease of banana known as black-tip (5,6).



Fig. 1A. Small brown spots caused by fungus, *Deightonella torulosa* (Sydow) Ellis on banana leaf.



Fig. 1B. Necrotic lesions running the length of the leaf blade.

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**CONTROL.** Bolkan et al. (1) found benomyl more effective than maneb and chlorothalonil in a recent experiment.

## Literature Cited

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